The Biceps Tendon: Pathology and Treatment

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Hybris ὕβρις

Actions who challenged the gods or their laws resulting in the protagonist's downfall.

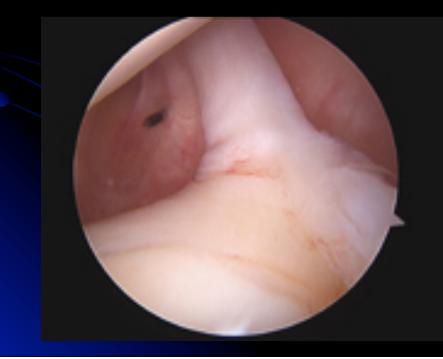


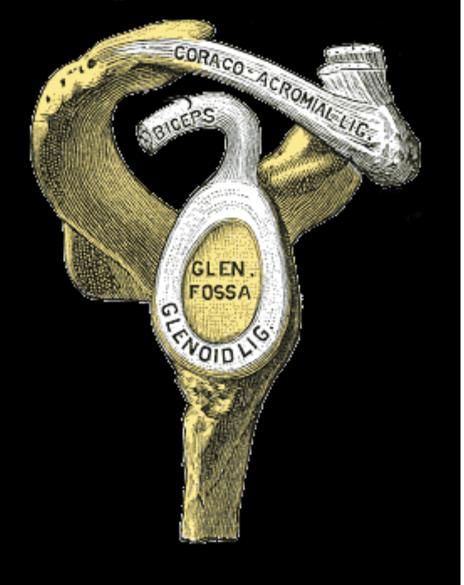
Normal Biceps Anchor



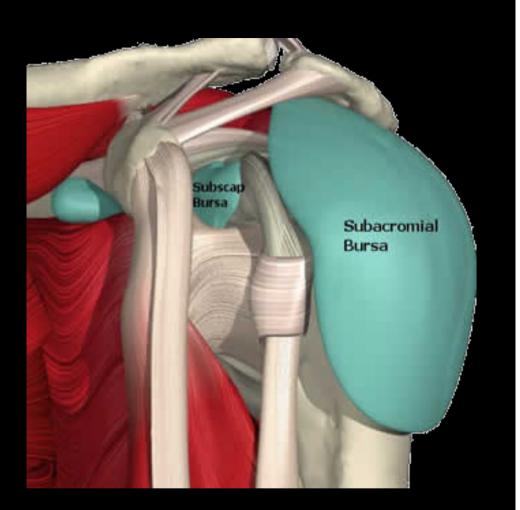
Anatomy of the Tendon of the Long Head of the Biceps

originates from the labrum and the supraglenoid tubercle

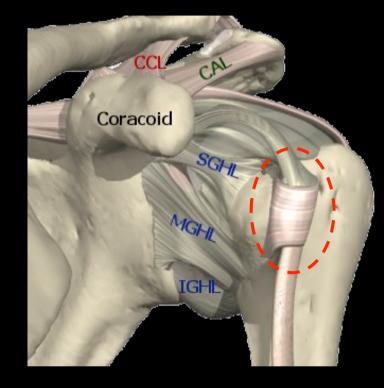


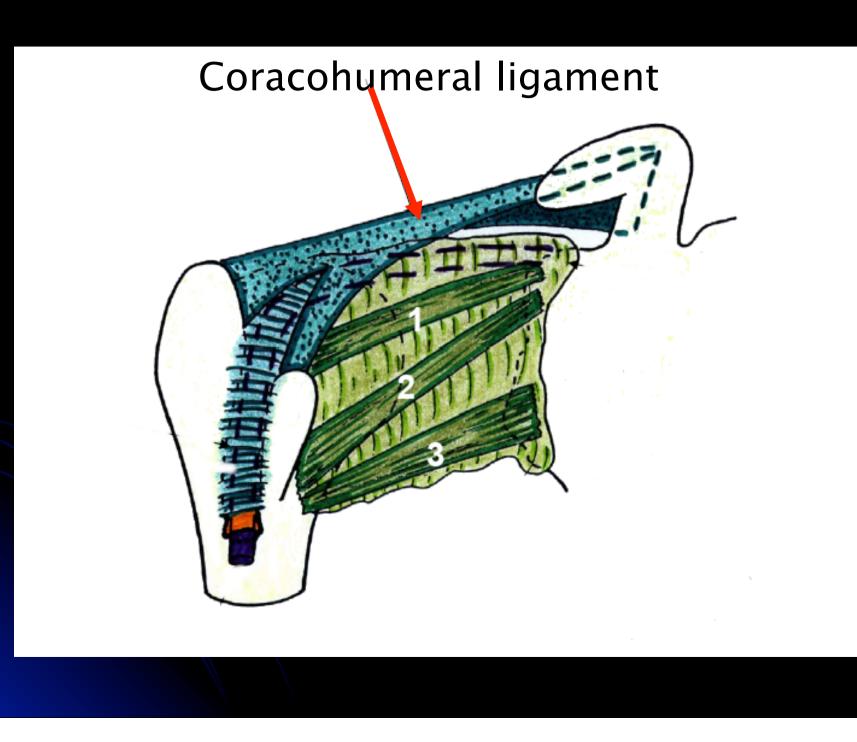


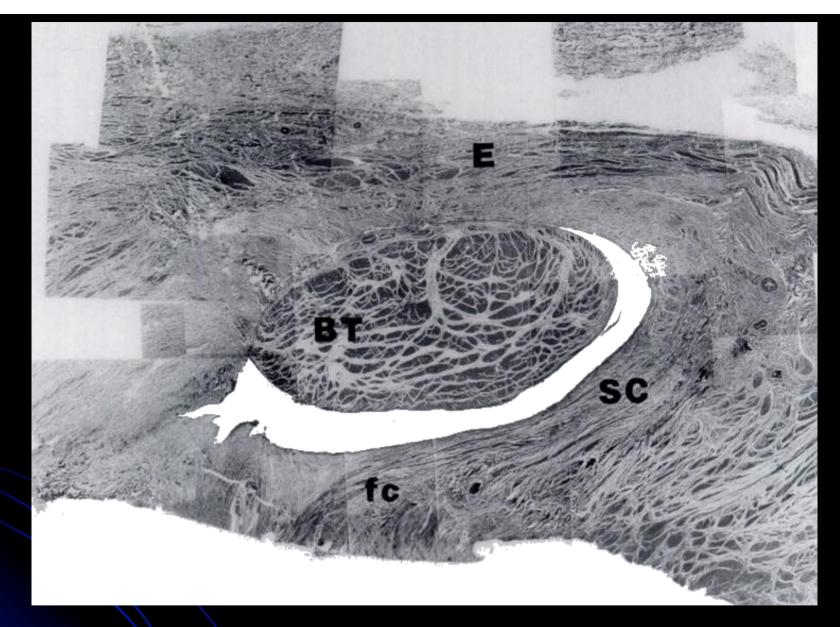
intraarticular and extrasynovial structure



9 cm long and 5 mm to 6 mm wide Stability is provided by the transverse humeral ligament







The floor is formed primarily by a slip from the SSC

- The fibers crossing horizontally over the tendon
 - are an extension from the SS tendon.

Clark & Harryman. *JBJS Am.* 1992;74:713-725.





Functions of the Tendon of the Long Head of the Biceps

depressor of the humeral head

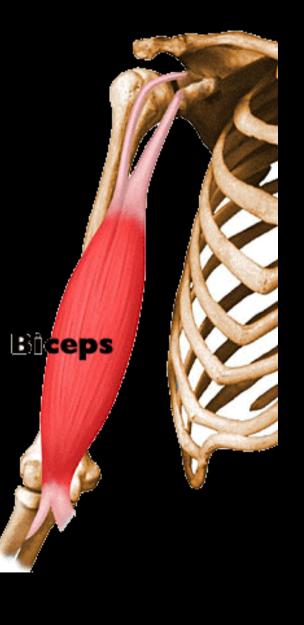
weak abductor of the shoulder (7% to 10% of power)

anterior stabiliser of the GH joint with the arm in abduction and external rotation

the role increases as shoulder stability decreases

 the proximal 1/3 of the biceps tendon has a high degree of innervation

 substance P and calcitonin gene-related peptides suggest a rich sympathetic network



Bicipital pathology is a significant cause of morbidity around the shoulder.

Problems related to the biceps tendon

TendinitisTenosynovitis

Inflammatory

Dislocation

Traumatic

SLAP lesionsPartial or complete ruptures

History and Physical Examination

essential part of the clinical evaluation

imaging studies are often non-diagnostic

History and Physical Examination

pain localized to the region of the bicipital groove

radiating pain that travels anteriorly toward the biceps muscle

exacerbated by activities, particularly repetitive overhead sporting activities

Yergason's Test

Speed's Test





Specific tests assessing biceps pathology:

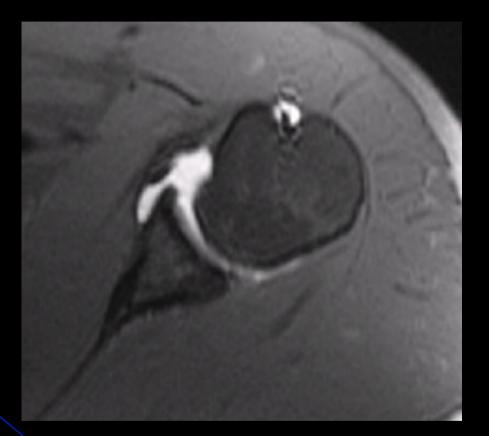
 These tests have poor specificity and are not pathognomic

Selective differential injections

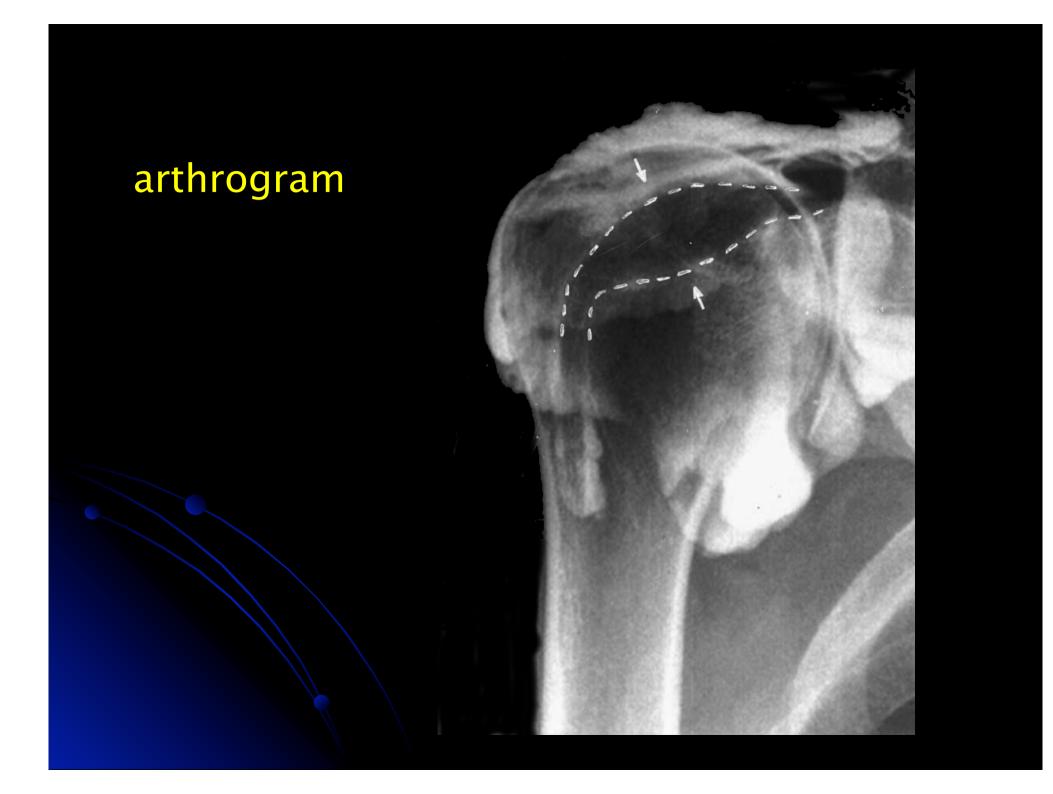
Imaging Studies

- Plain films are nondiagnostic
- Arthrography: hourglass biceps
- Ultrasound
- MRI

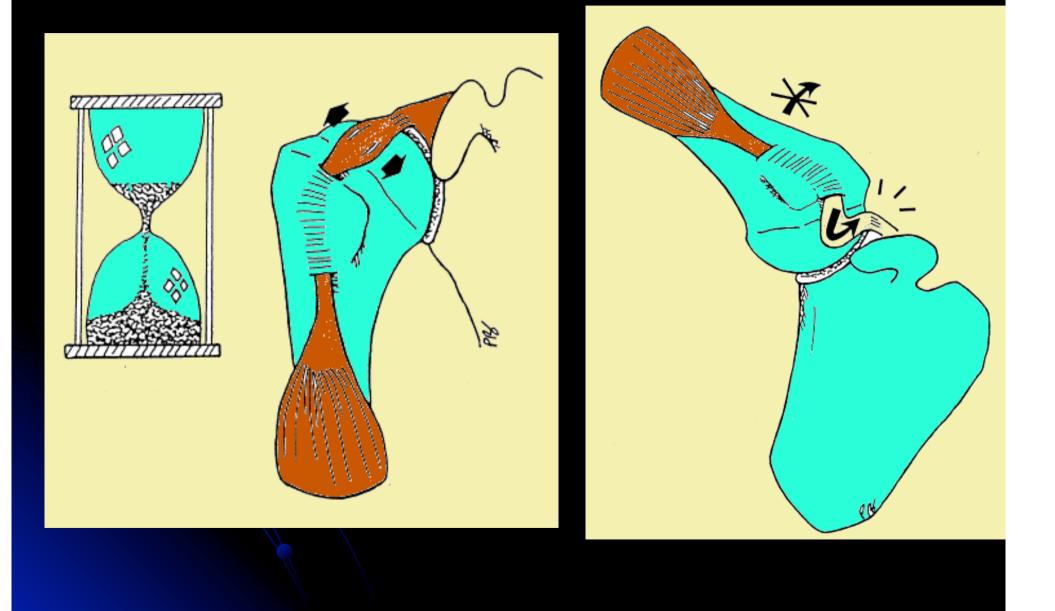
Imaging Studies

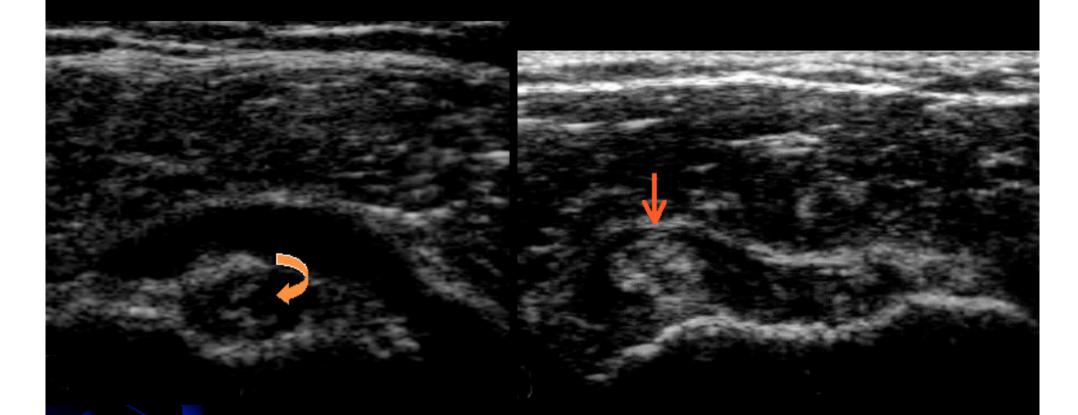


The contour of the biceps tendon is irregular and adhesions are present



The Hourglass Biceps

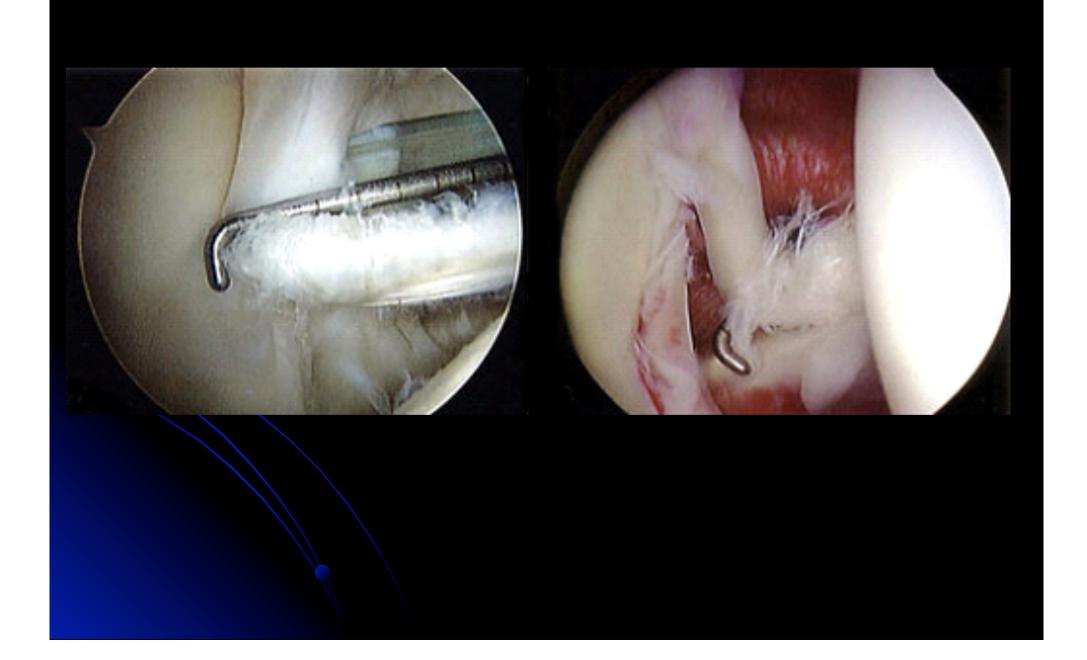




Partial tear of the LHB

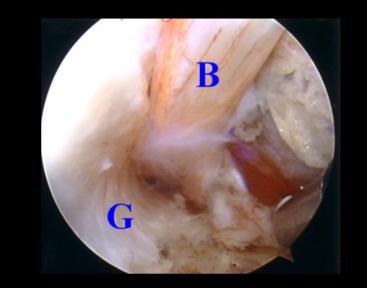
Medial dislocation

Peri-tendineous effusion and synovial proliferation of the long head of biceps tendon, with sheath distension.



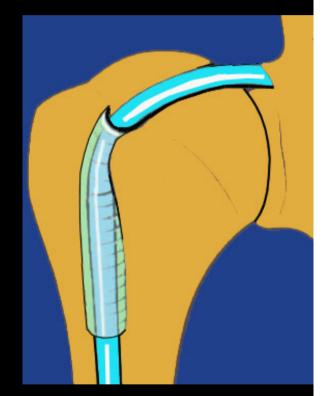
Inflammation:

Tendonitis and Tenosynovitis



Primary biceps tendonitis

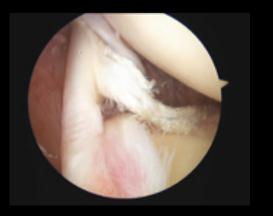
- **rare (5%)**
- caused by recurrent gliding of the humerus around the biceps tendon
- the tendon appears normal
- conservative treatment (rest, NSAIDs, corticosteroids)





caused by underlying shoulder disease

- bicipital groove/rotator cuff/biceps instability
- closely associated with impingement





the most common cause of biceps tendinitis

classified by the type of underlying lesion

 superior 1/3 lesions of the SS can cause inflammation and distension of the ligamentous pulley and bicipital sheath, ultimately destabilizing the biceps within its groove



A medial osteophyte from prior trauma to the lesser tuberosity

(courtesy of T. Bradley Edwards, MD)





Secondary biceps tendonitis

 Nonoperative treatment results in transitory relief unless the underlying diagnosis is addressed.

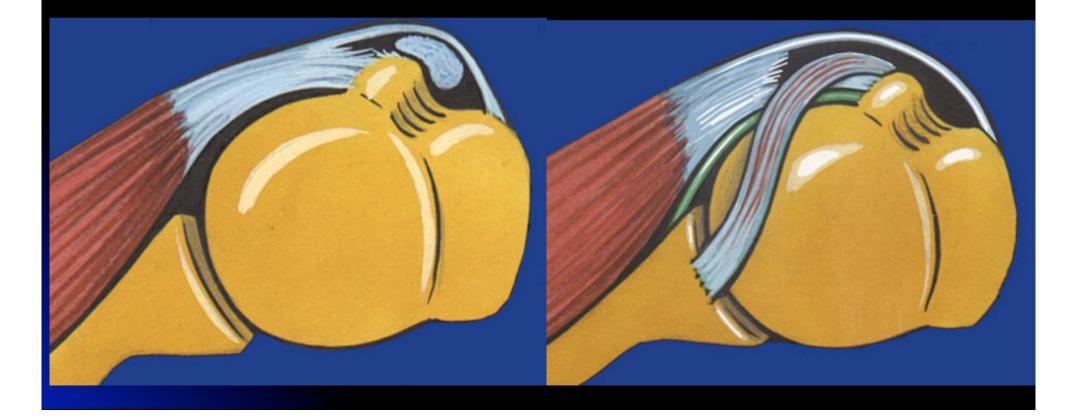
 Operative treatment includes addressing the underlying pathology and the biceps via tenotomy or tenodesis.

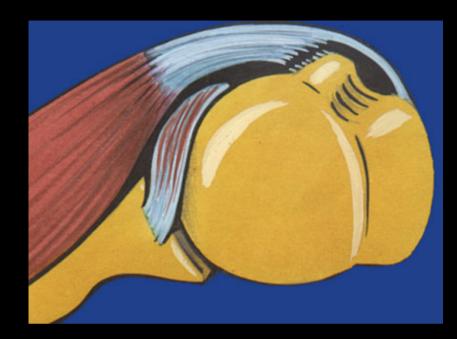
Instability: Subluxation & Dislocation

Instability of the biceps tendon

may result in biceps tendonitis

subluxation or dislocation





Intraarticular dislocation



Extraarticular dislocation

Intraarticular Dislocation

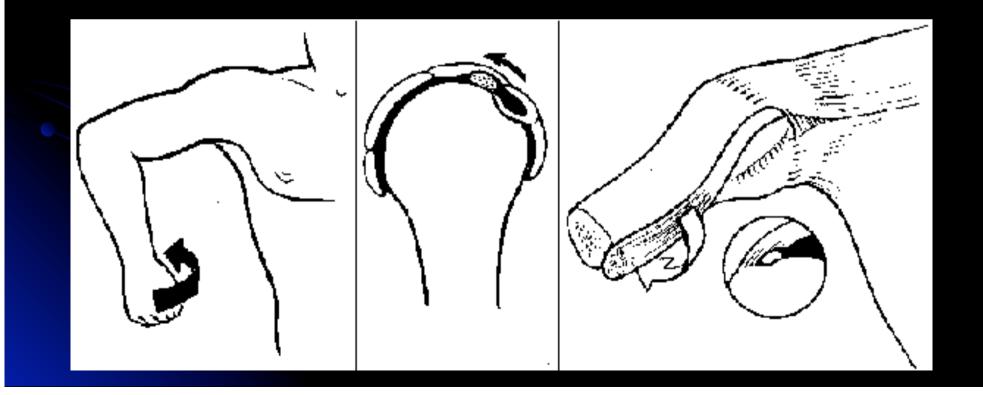


Biceps Subluxation

- occurs in a medial direction via disruption of the ligamentous pulley resulting in fraying of the medial aspect of the LHB
- exception is the throwing athlete
- usually associated with SSC ruptures

Articular-sided, partial thickness tears of the SS (internal impingement)

Mechanical abrasion of the lateral aspect of the LHB as it "rides up" onto the greater tuberosity during the follow-through phase of throwing



Treatment of biceps instability

 Nonoperative treatment through avoidance of repetitive elevation

 Operative treatment for the unstable biceps tendon consists of tenotomy or tenodesis

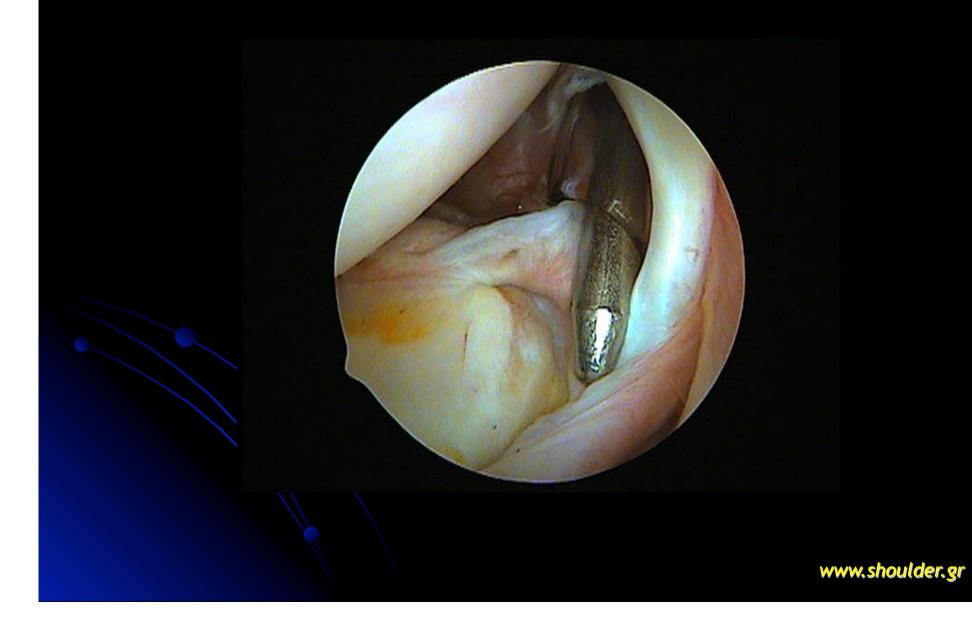




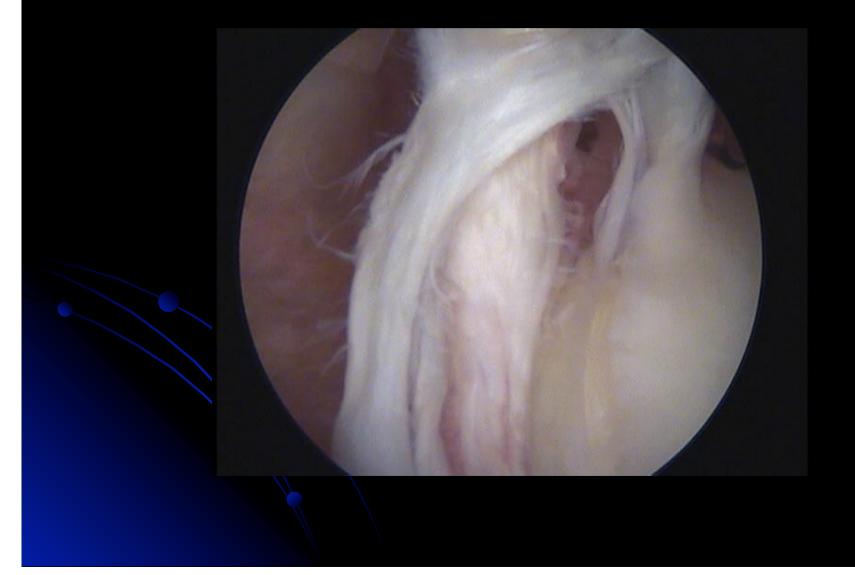
Trauma







SLAP IV lesion:



"the role of the Physician is to entertain the patient whilst his disease runs its usual course."



Molière 17th century

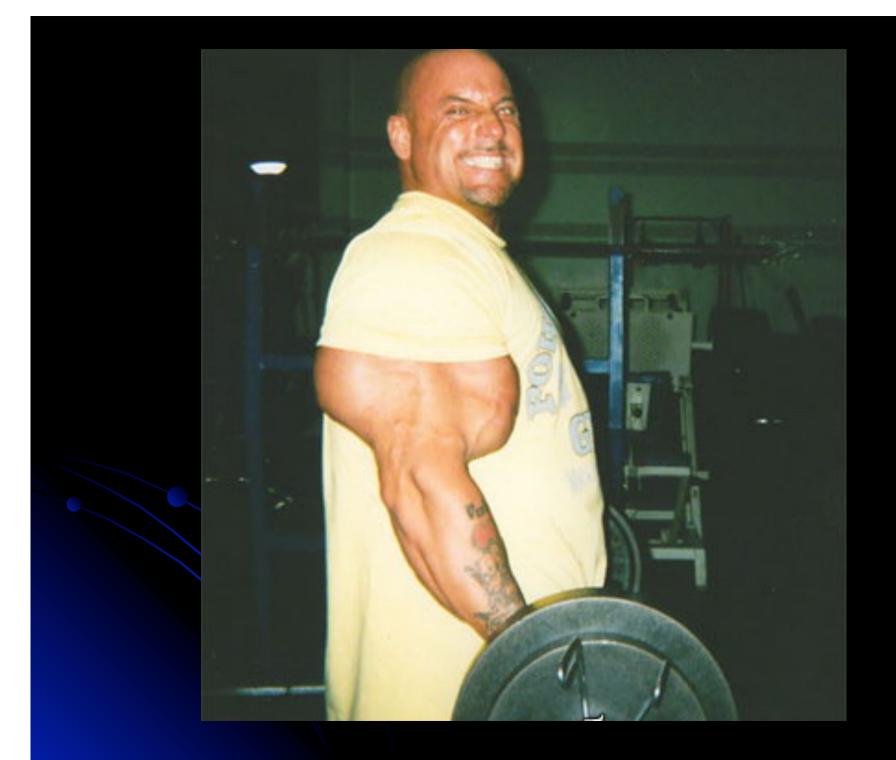


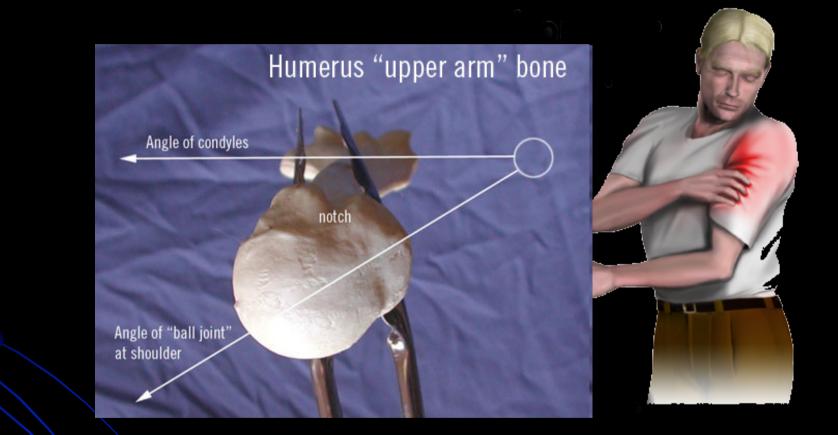
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32 year old baseball pitcher with a superior labral tear (SLAP tear), seen in the coronal plane and in the same case, where a long portion of the biceps tendon is visualized to its anchor in the ABER position

Shoulder pain

Intrinsic

Rotator cuff disorders Glenohumeral disorders Acromio-Clavicular jt

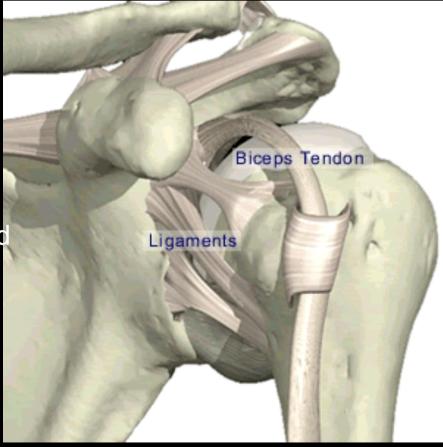
Extrinsic Referred neck pain Cervical spondylosis Cancer (Lung, spine, mets) Subphrenic abscess Biliary colic or disease Ectopic pregnancy

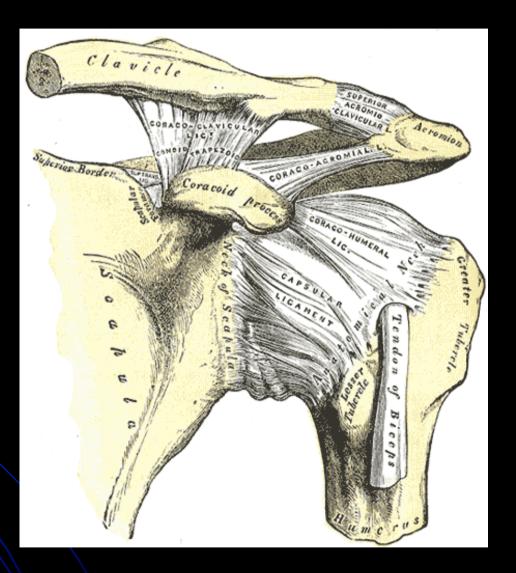
Gross Anatomy of the Long of Head of Biceps

• Flexion

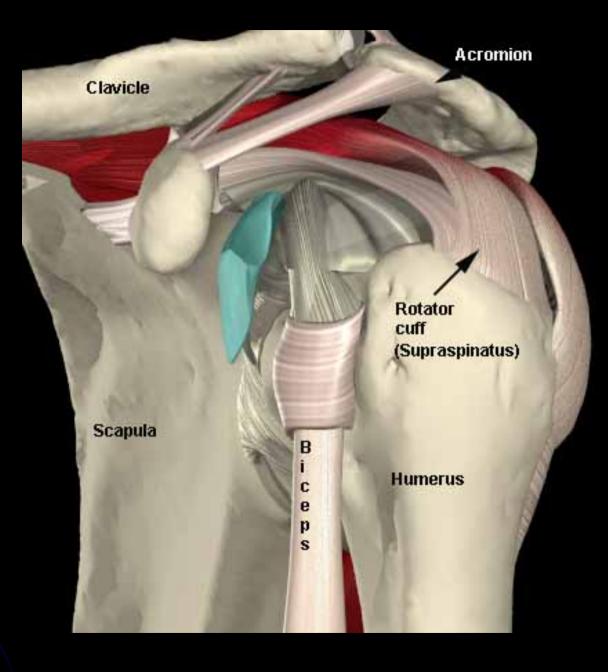
• Abduction

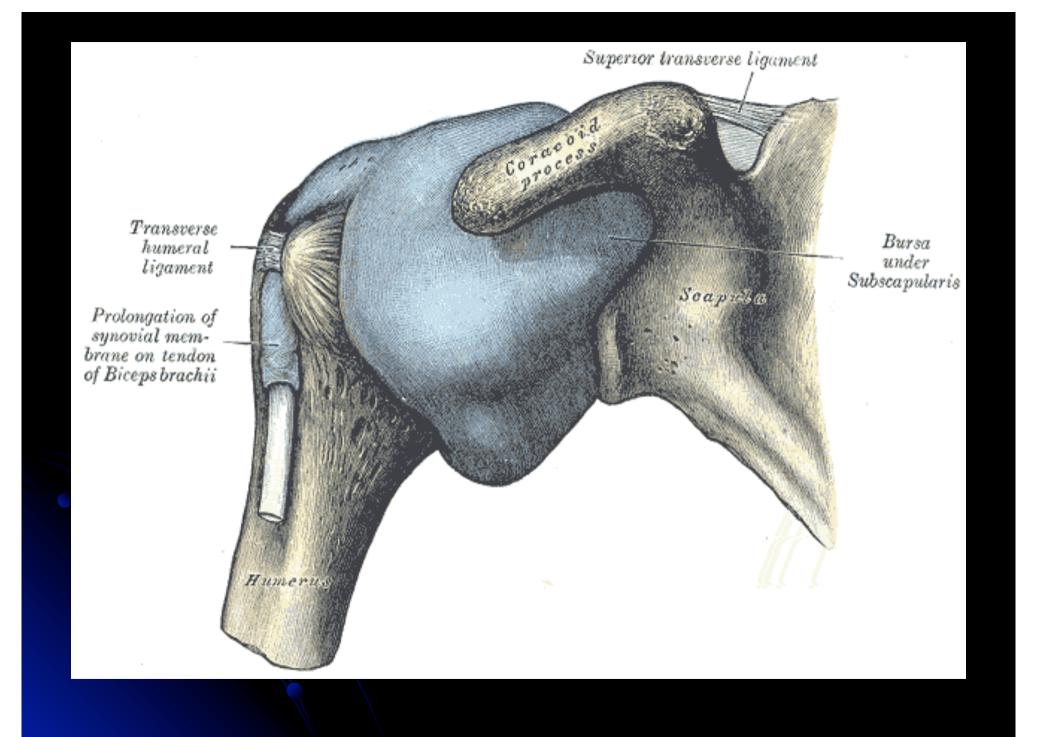
- Long head attaches on the supraglenoid tubersosity of the scapula
- Short head attaches on the coracoid process of scapula
- Stability is provided by the transverse humeral ligament









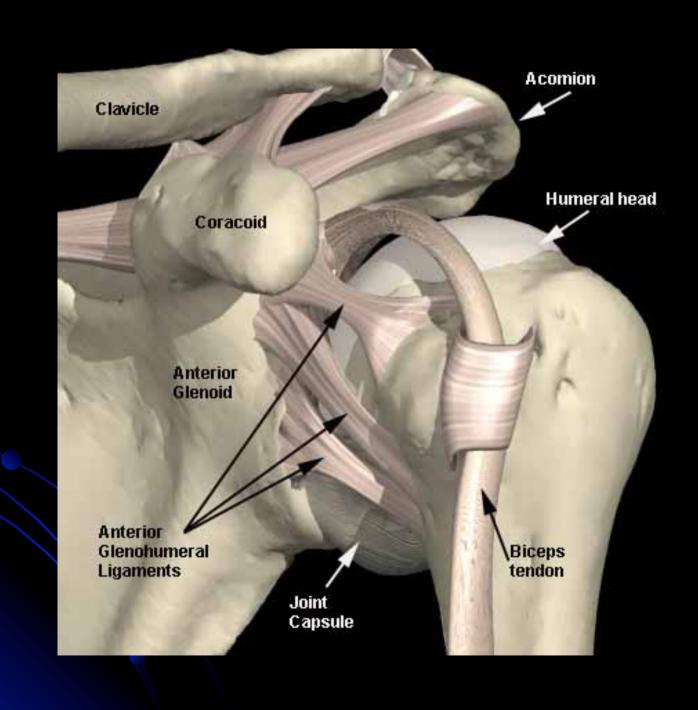


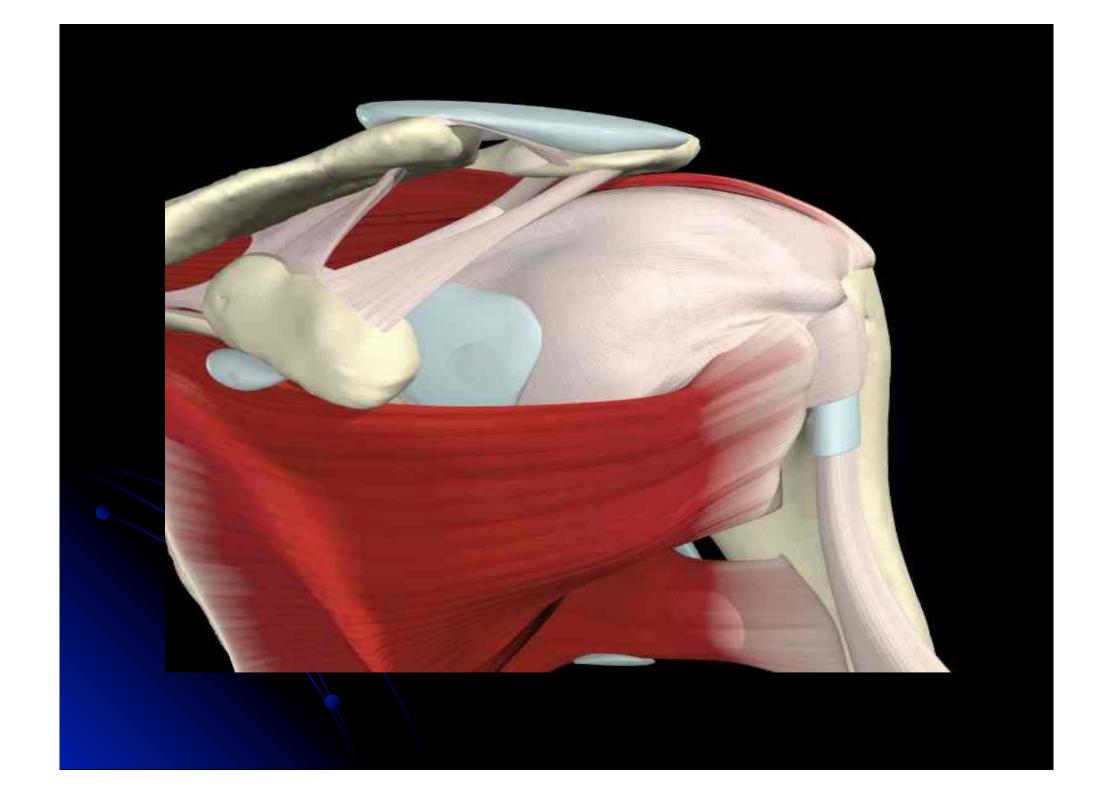
Clark & Harryman. *JBJS* Am. 1992;74:713-725.

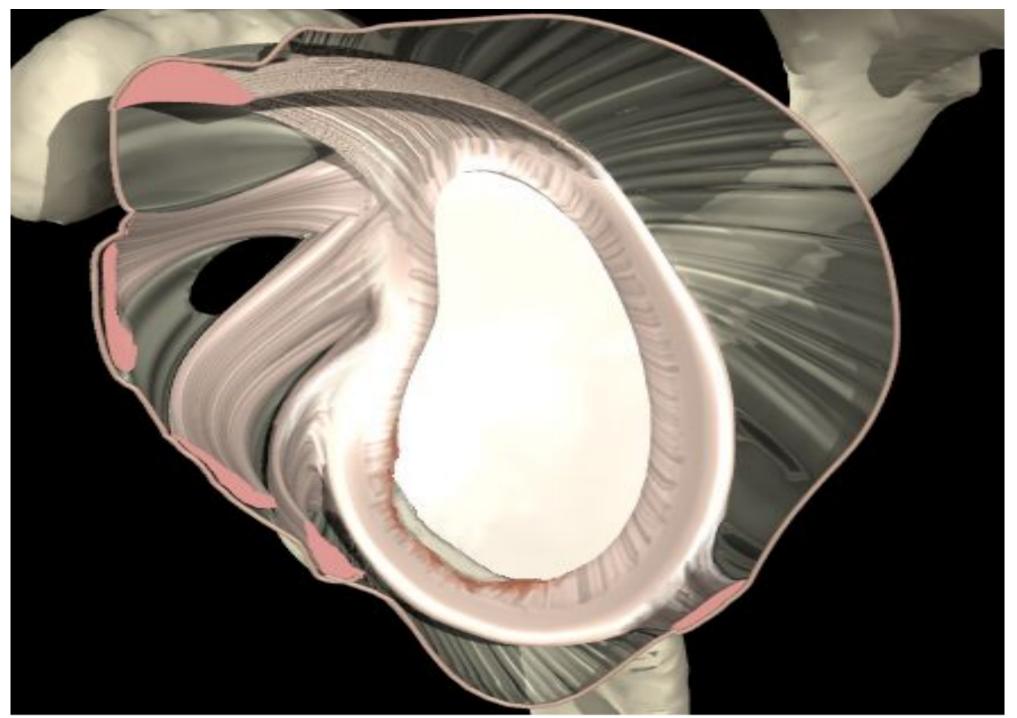
Vertical. of the hi x 38). Th fibrous t n through the biceps tendon and its sheath near the proximal opening

hone, shows the t<mark>hick</mark>

In this segment of the sheath, the floor is formed primarily by a slip from the subscapularis (SC) and has the appearance of fibrocartilage (fc) where it lies close to the bone. The fibers crossing horizontally over the tendon are an extension (E) from the supraspinatus tendon.





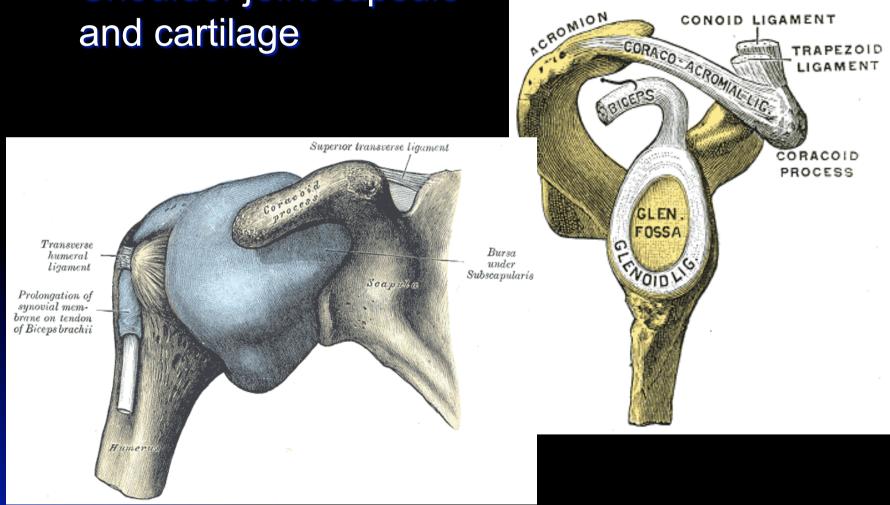


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Anatomy Review

CONOID LIGAMENT

Shoulder joint capsule and cartilage

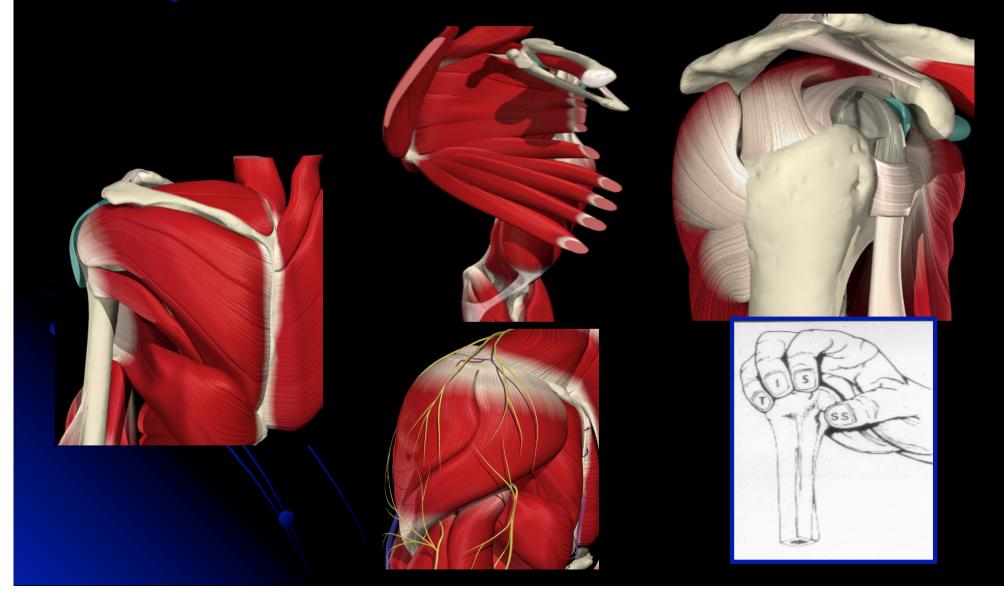


Anatomy Stability

- Ligaments act in extremes
 - static
- Rotator cuff acts in mid-range via concavity-compression
 dynamic
- Muscle-dependent joint



Anatomy Dynamic Restraints→Rotator Cuff

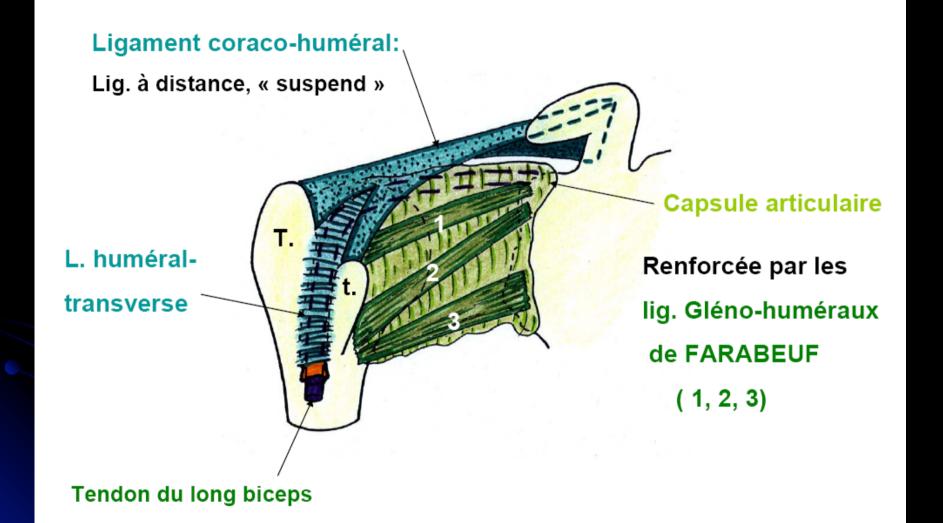


Long Head of Biceps Tendon

proximal attachment

- supraglenoid tubercle
- superior labrum
- superior anterior and
- posterior labrum
- Capsule

insertion 3.5 mm medial to glenoid rim

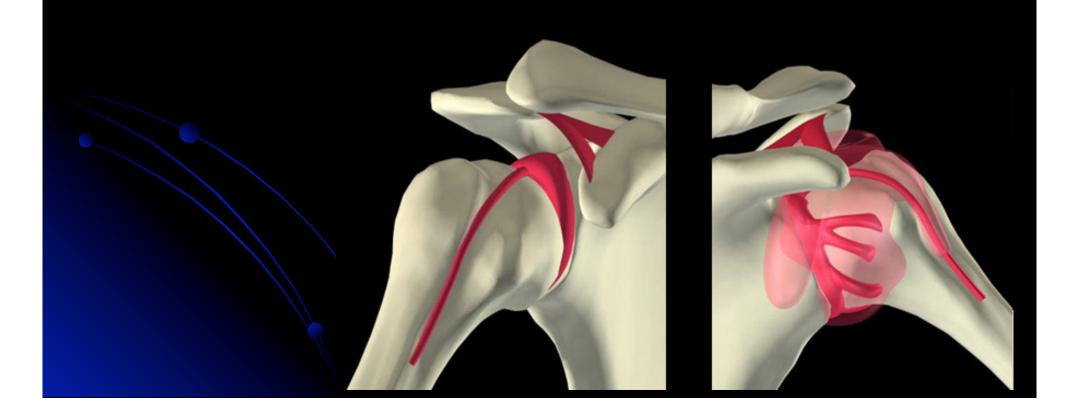


Labral Attachment to LHB

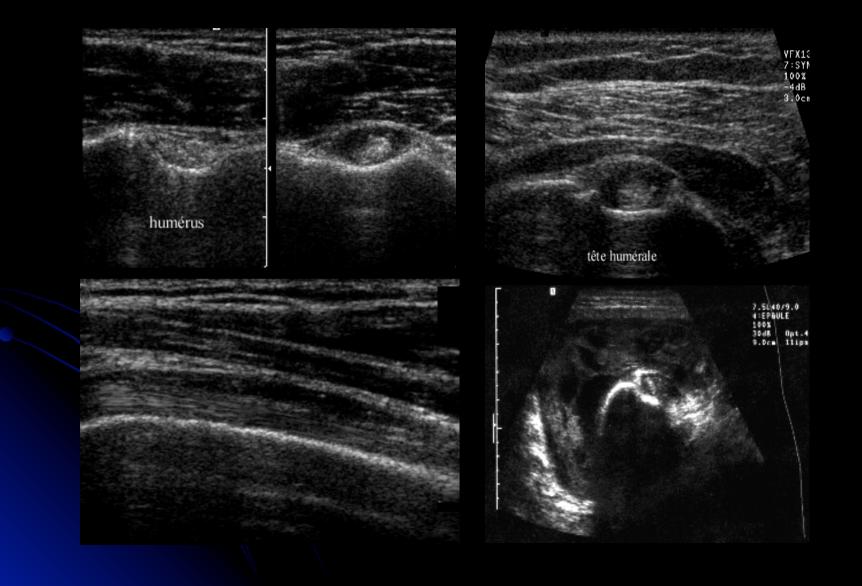
- superior-anterior labrum 55%
- loose glenoid attachment 15%
- firm glenoid attachment 15%
- no glenoid attachment 20%
- large subscapularis recess

Epaule - Lésion Tendineuse : Le Biceps brachii L H

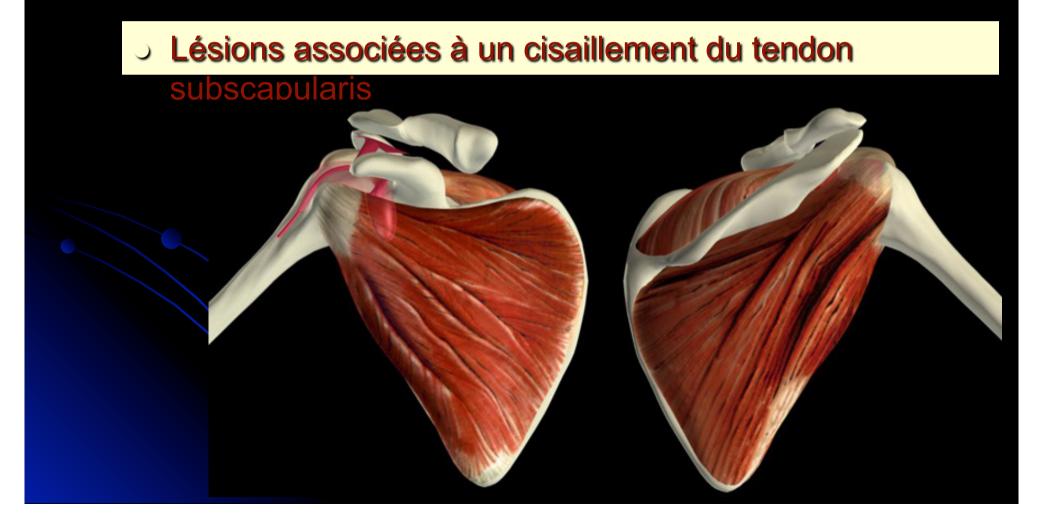
 Souvent associée à une lésion supérieure du bourrelet



Tendon du long biceps



Epaule - Lésion Tendineuse : Biceps brachii L H + Subscapularis



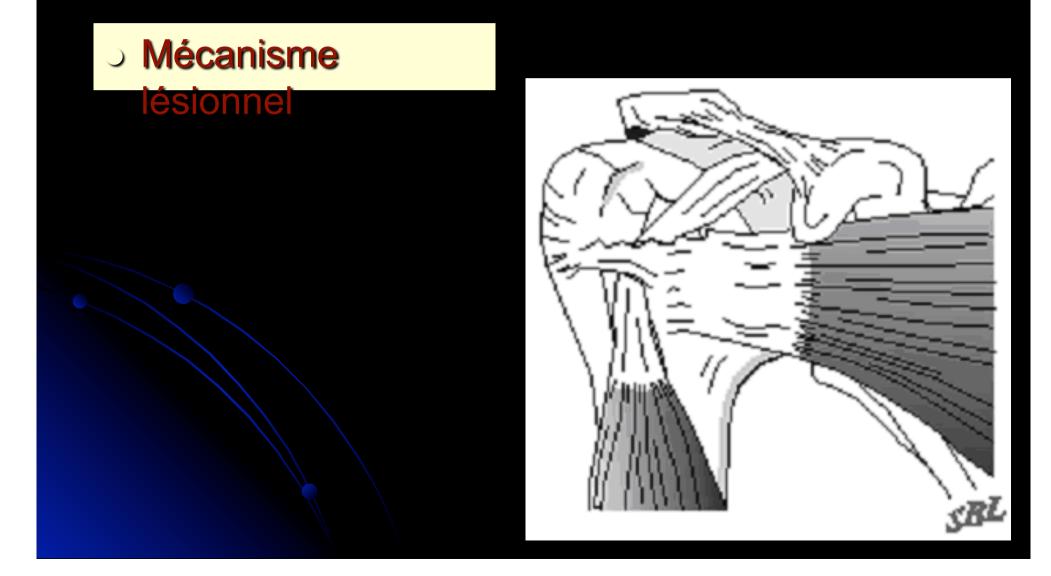
Epaule - Lésion Tendineuse : Biceps brachii L H + Subscapularis

J Mécanisme

lésionnel

Simplify Min.

Epaule - Lésion Tendineuse : Biceps brachii L H + Subscapularis



Epaule - Rupture Tendineuse : Biceps brachii L H

Rupture totale du faisceau



Biceps Tendon Injuries

Tendonitis

Secondary to biomechanical issues and/or repetitive overuse movements

Biceps tendon rupture

- Can occur to long head from glenoid rim, short head from coracoid process or distal tendon from radius at elbow
- Typically has resultant deformity

Shoulder: normal capsule

Axillary Recess

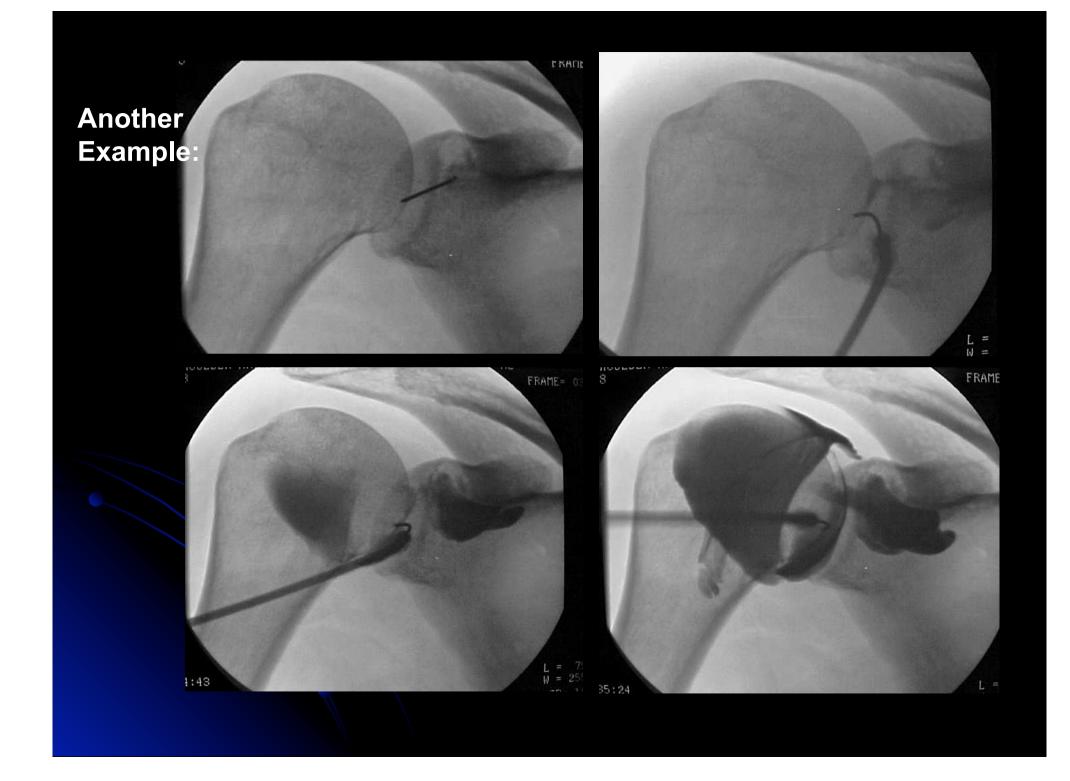
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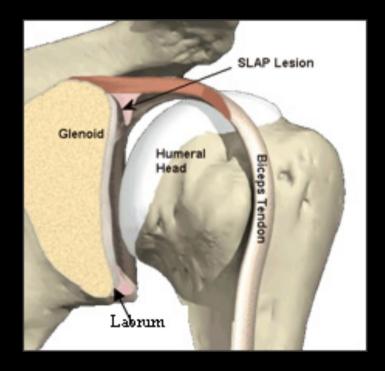
Subscapular recess

Biceps Tendon (usually stops at neck)

25.94



Long head biceps



Long head biceps injection



Biceps strength testing

- Arms outstretched with palms up at level of shoulder
- Forced supination of hand with elbow flexed at 90 degrees

Bicipital Tenosynovitis

- Cause of Injury
- Repetitive overhead athlete ballistic activity that involves repeated stretching of biceps tendon causing irritation to the tendon and sheath
- Signs of Injury
- Tenderness over bicipital groove, swelling, crepitus due to inflammation
- Pain when performing overhead activities
- Care
- Rest and ice to treat inflammation
- NSAID's
- Gradual program of strengthening and stretching

Biceps Tendonitis

Biceps tendonitis is a result from repetative overloading and friction as the long head of the biceps passes through the bicipital groove and under the transverse humeral ligament on its way to its attachment on the superior glenoid labrum. Biceps tendonitis is rarely a singular pathology; it generally occurs with impingement syndrome.

Biceps tendonitis

- Inflammation of long head of biceps
 Passes through bicipital groove of anterior
 - humerus
- Usually due to repetitive lifting or reaching
- Inflammation, microtearing, degenerative changes
- Up to 10% pts will have spontaneous rupture

Sx of biceps tendonitis

Anterior shoulder pain
Worse with lifting or overhead reaching
Often pts point to bicipital groove
Usually no weakness in elbow flexion

Exam for biceps tendonitis

- Bicipital groove tenderness
 Look for subacromial impingement
- Tendon rupture
- Test biceps strength
- Yergason test
 - Elbows flexed with forearms in front
 - Pt actively resisting external rotation
 - Tendon may pop out of bicipital groove when downward pressure applied to forearm

Ruptured biceps tendon

- Usually rotator cuff tear also present
- Get the "popeye" sign
- Rarely get significant weakness
 - Brachioradialis and short head of biceps provide 80-85% elbow flexor strength
- Tx is supportive

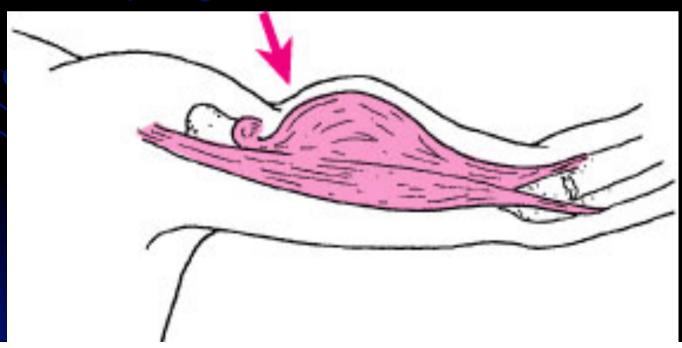


Biceps Brachii Rupture

Etiology

Result of a powerful contraction

 Generally occurs near origin of muscle at bicipital groove



Biceps Brachii Rupture

Signs and Symptoms

- Athlete hears a resounding snap and feels sudden and intense pain
- Protruding bulge may appear near middle of biceps
- Definite weakness with elbow flexion and supination

Management

- Ice for hemorrhaging, place arm in sling and refer to athlete
- Athletes will require surgery
- Older individual will be able to rely on brachialis which serves as primary elbow flexor

Bicipital Tenosynovitis

- Etiology
 - Repetitive overhead athlete ballistic activity that involves repeated stretching of biceps tendon causing irritation to the tendon and sheath
- Signs and Symptoms
 - Tenderness over bicipital groove, swelling, crepitus due to inflammation
 - Pain when performing overhead activities
- Management
 - Rest, ice and ultrasound to treat inflammation
 - NSAID's
 - Gradual program of strengthening and stretching

Radiology for biceps tendonitis

- Usually plain films unnecessary
- If tendon rupture present, then get plain films, U/S, or MRI
 - Look for rotator cuff tendonitis or tear

Tx of biceps tendonitis

- Reduce inflammation
- Strengthen biceps muscle and tendon
- Prevent rupture
- Ice, NSAIDs, avoid aggravating motions
 - 5-10% risk of rupture with noncompliance
- Weighted pendulum
- Elbow flexion toning exercises
- Steroid injection
- Surgical referral if sx persist >3 months



Bicep Tendon Pathology Biceps Tendinitis

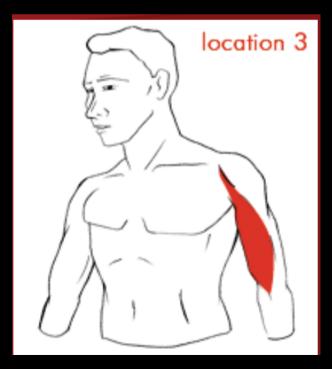
- Luxation of bicep tendon
- Long Head of biceps rupture

Signs and symptoms

- Pain on P/A/RROM
- Loss of function
- Overuse activity
- Tenderness
- Errythema
- Swelling
- Inflammation
- Crepitus

Biceps tendinitis

- ${\bf v}$ Swelling, inflammation in biceps tendon
- v Pain upper, anterior shoulder in biceps groove
- v Pain with shoulder, elbow flexion
- ν Pain with lifting
- $\boldsymbol{\nu}$ Weakness due to pain



Shoulder Tendinitis

Treatment

 ν Rest

 \boldsymbol{v} Oral medications – NSAIDs

- v Cuff strengthening
- v Cortisone Injection
- v Physical Therapy modalities
- v Surgery Biceps tenodesis

Special Tests
A/P/RROM
RC muscle test
Diagnostic Procedure
Physician if symptoms persist

Luxation of biceps tendon

Mechanism

- Inadequate muscle development
- Overuse in throwing
- Tearing of transverse humeral ligament
- Shallow bicipital groove of humerus
- Faulty mechanics

Signs and Symptoms Pain in anterior aspect of shoulder

- Loss of shoulder function
- Snapping sensation followed by dull ache in arm or arm feeling dead
- Tenderness over bicipital groove
- Inflammation

Special Tests
Yergason
Speed's
Ludington
Diagnostic Procedure
Refer to physician

Special Tests for Biceps Tendon Subluxation

• Yergason's

- Patient
 - Sitting or standing
 - Elbow flexed at 90 degrees
- Examiner
 - Stabilize olecranon inferiorly and maintained to thorax
 - Forearm stabilize proximal to wrist
- Procedure

 Patient provides resistance while examiner moves GH joint in ER and supination

Tests for Bicep tendon stability

Speed's

Patient

- Sitting or standing
- Elbow extended/ GH jt in neutral or slightly extended to stretch biceps brachii

Examiner

- One hand over bicipital groove (stabilizing shoulder)
- Forearm stabilized proximal to wrist

Procedure

Examiner resists flexion of GH joint and elbow while palpating for tenderness over bicipital groove

Bicep Tendon Rupture

- Ludington's
 - Patient
 - Standing or sitting
 - Hands on top of head with fingers interlocked
 - Examiner
 - Standing behind patient palpating long head of biceps brachii
 - Procedure
 - Pt. Contracts bicep brachii by applying force to top of head
 - Examiner palpates long head of biceps tendon

Long head of biceps rupture

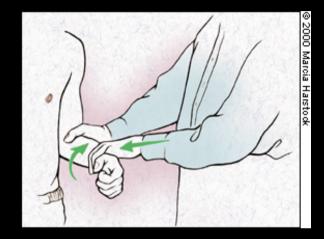
Mechanism

- Violent contraction against resistance
- Symptoms/signs
 - Pain
 - Loss of function
 - Sensation of something rolling up arm
 - Protruding bulge in biceps
 - Tenderness along long head
 - Loss of strength

Special Tests
Ludington's test
Diagnostic Procedure
Refer to ortho

Yergason test

 Yergason test for biceps tendon instability or tendonitis. The patient's elbow is flexed to 90 degrees, and the examiner resists the patient's active attempts to supinate the arm and flex the elbow.



Yergason Test 1



Yergason Test 2



Yergason Test

Positive Findings

pain popping Transverse Humeral Ligament Long Head of the Biceps irritation





Speed's Maneuver

 Forward flex the shoulder against resistance while maintaining the elbow in extension and the forearm in supination.
 Pain or tenderness in the bicipital groove in dicates bicipital tendinitis.





Speed's Test

Positive Findings

Pain

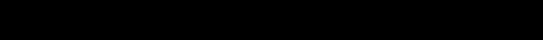
Weakness

Long Head of Biceps Tendon

Contusion of biceps

- Mechanism
 - Direct Trauma
- Signs and Symptoms
 - Pain
 - Loss of elbow flexion and extension
 - Transitory paralysis
 - Pt. Tenderness
 - Ecchymosis
 - Hematoma Formation
 - Inflammation

Special Tests
A/P/RROM
Diagnostic Procedures
Refer if symptoms persist



Lésions du tendon du long biceps

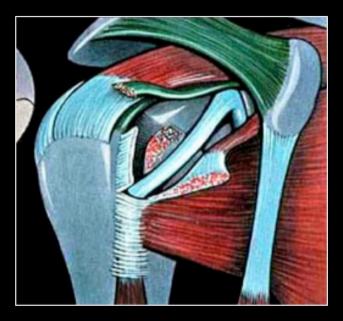


Dégénérescence, rupture possible, luxation en avant de la coulisse bicipitale Ce qui favorise l'ascension de la tête et aggrave le conflit

Traitement : ténotomie et réinsertion sur l'humérus

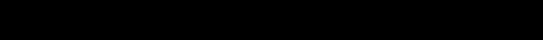
Lésions du tendon du long biceps





La luxation en avant de la coulisse bicipitale s'accompagne parfois d'une désinsertion partielle du tendon du sous-scapulaire

Traitement : ténotomie et réinsertion sur l'humérus du biceps et du sousscapulaire



SPECIAL REHABILITATION APPLICATION

BICEPS TENDON INJURIES

- The most common injury seen in the biceps tendon is tendinitis
- Rehabilitation treatment must include an assessment of the rotator cuff, because pathology in this location is often related to biceps pathology.
- Control of pain, swelling, and inflammation is an initial goal of treatment.
- Therapeutic exercises progress as tolerated to include a strengthening sequence similar to that listed for conditions discussed earlier.
- It should also obviously include supination and elbow flexion exercises.

Ultrasound Case: Biceps Tendonitis and Sub-Deltoid Bursitis

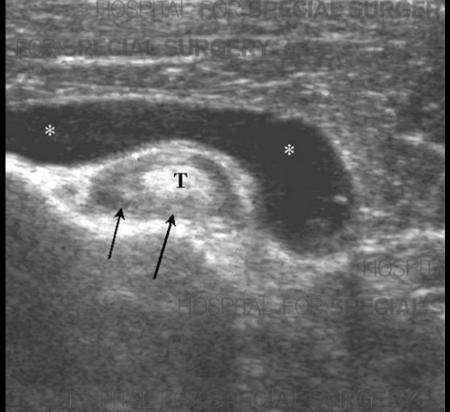


- Diagnosis: Biceps Tendonitis and Sub-Deltoid Bursitis.
 - History: Patient complaining of anterior pain over shoulder.
- Findings: Long axis extended field of view image of the biceps tendon (t). The tendon is surrounded abnormal soft tissue (arrows) within the tendon sheath. Fluid (*) is present in the subdeltoid bursa overlying the biceps tendon.
- Treatment: Biceps tendon sheath injection.

Slide 1 of 3

HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY

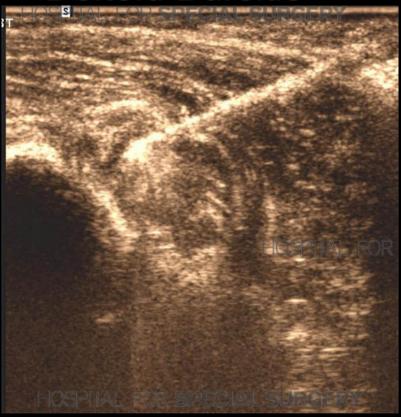
Ultrasound Case: Biceps Tendonitis and Sub-Deltoid Bursitis





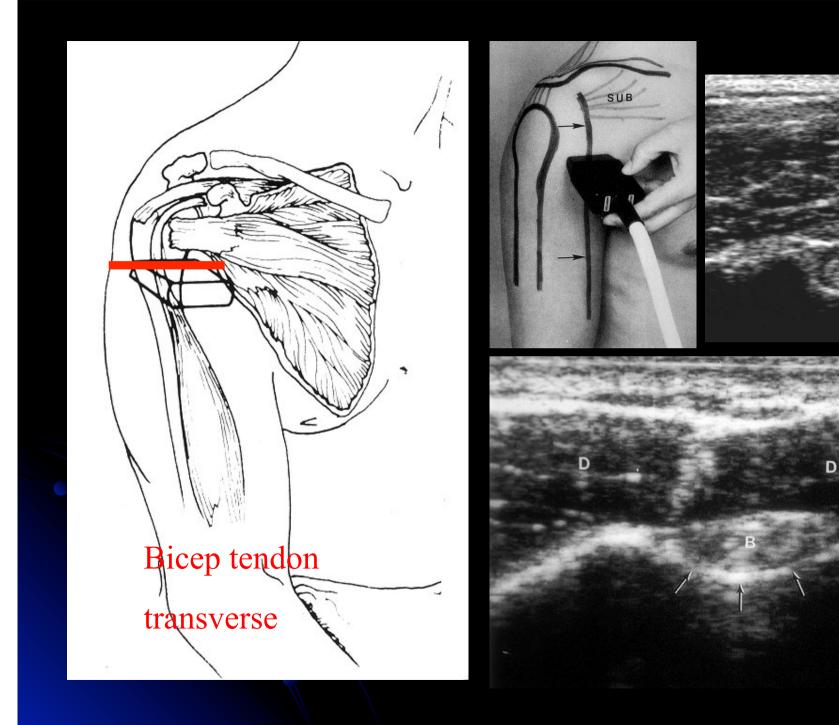
- Diagnosis: Biceps Tendonitis and Sub-Deltoid Bursitis.
- History: Patient complaining of anterior pain over shoulder.
- Findings: Transverse view of biceps tendon (t) shows it to be slightly subluxed and surrounded by soft tissue (arrows). Fluid (*) overlies the tendon in the subdeltoid bursa.
- Treatment: Biceps tendon sheath injection. Slide 2 of 3

Ultrasound Case: Biceps Tendonitis and Sub-Deltoid Bursitis



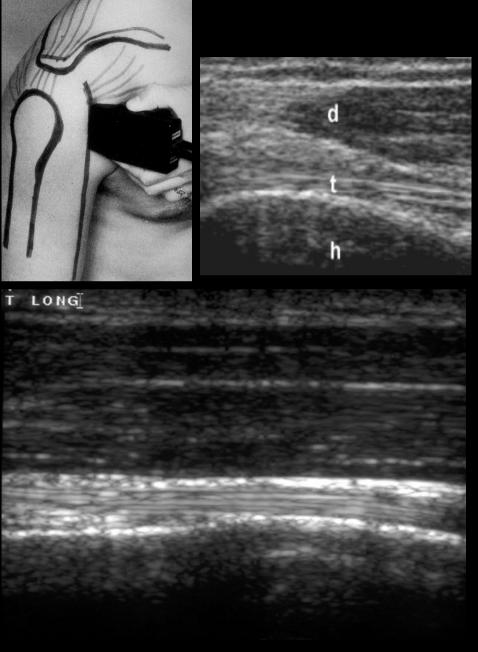


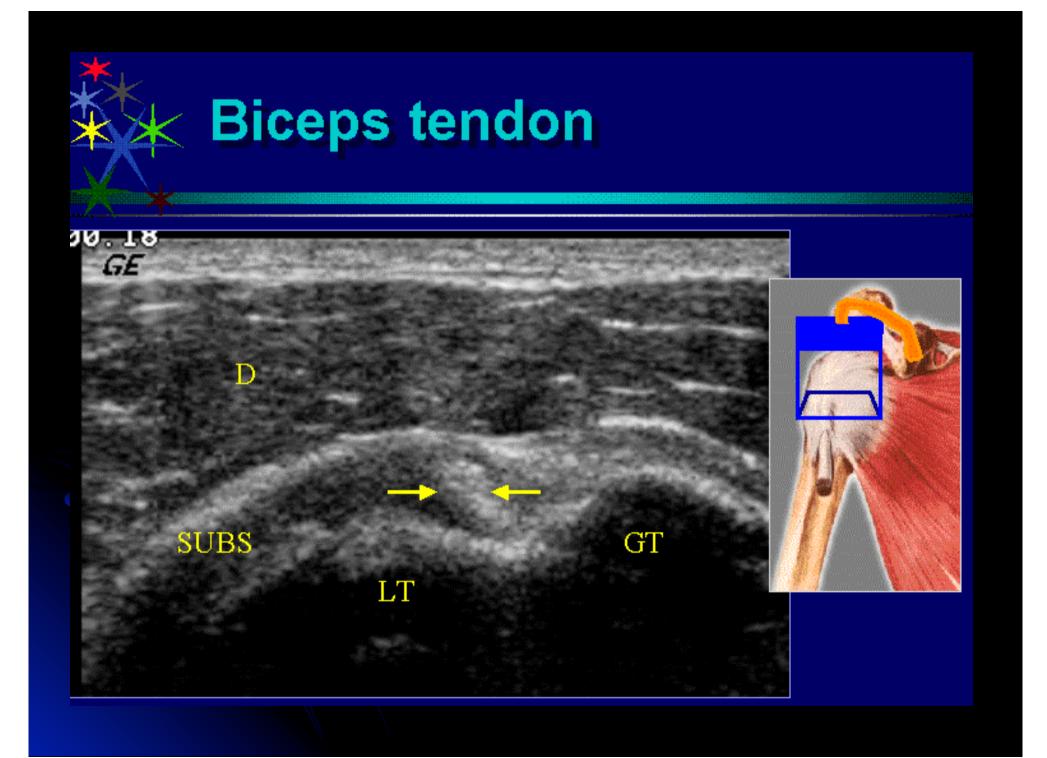
- Diagnosis: Biceps Tendonitis and Sub-Deltoid Bursitis.
- History: Patient complaining of anterior pain over shoulder.
- Findings: Biceps tendon sheath injection using ultrasound guidance. The needle is next to the tendon and within the sheath. The bursa is avoided as as well as the tendon with the benefit of real time guidance.
 Treatment: Biceps tendon sheath injection.

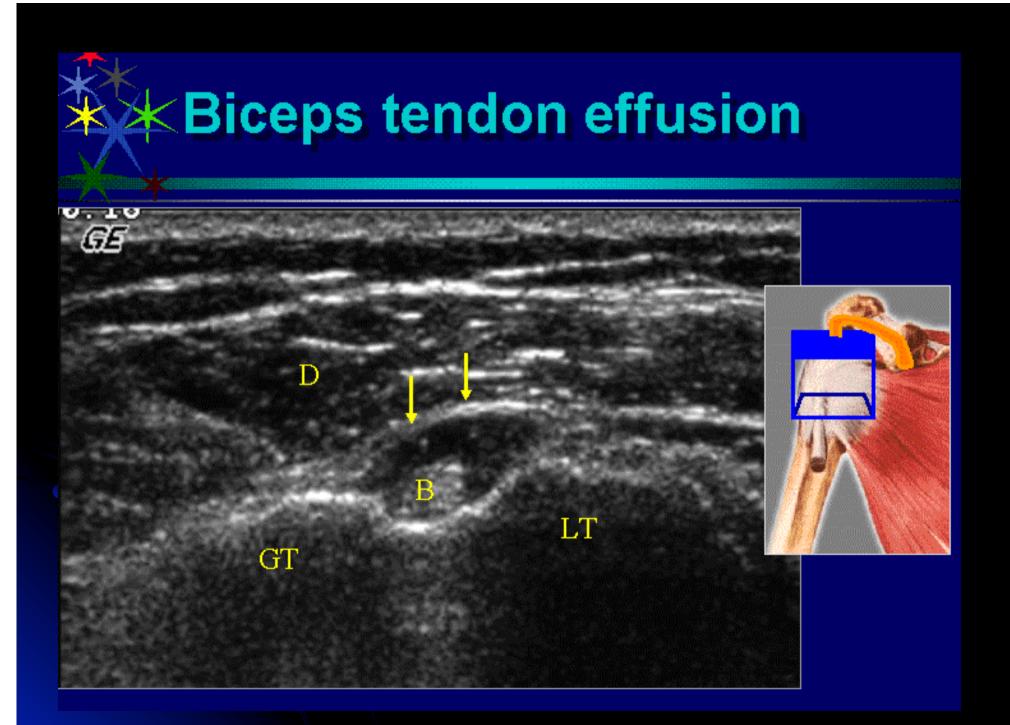


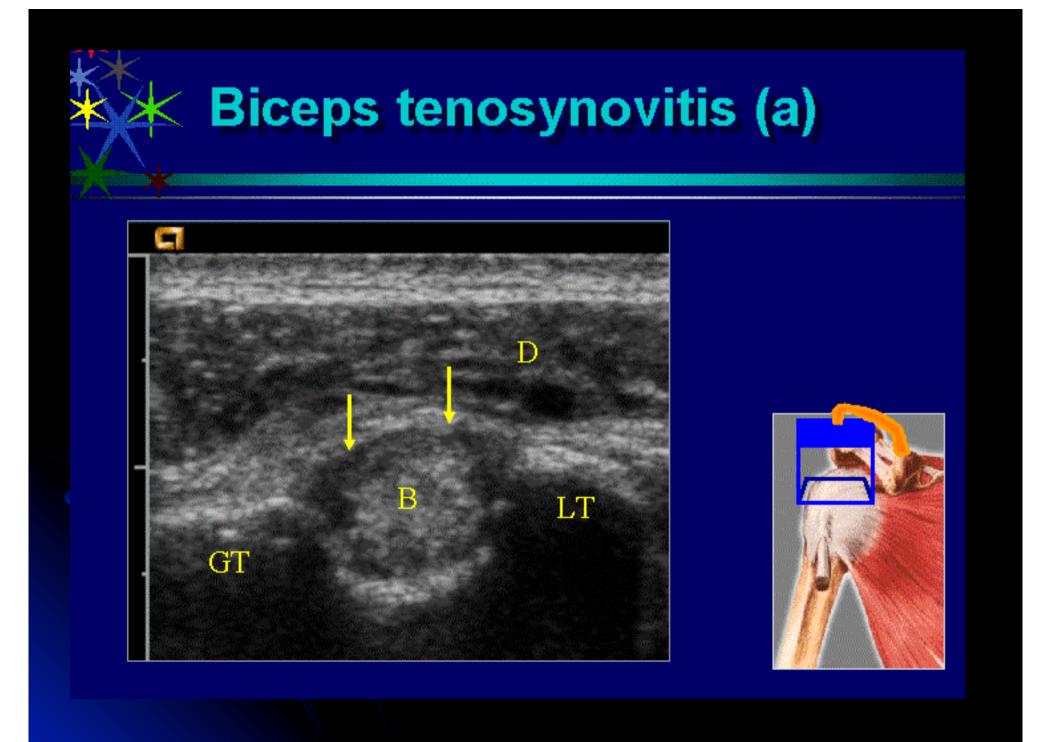
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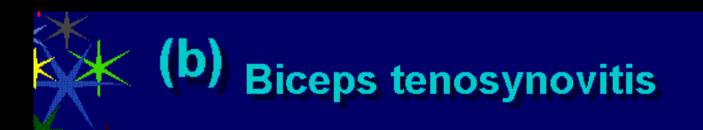
Bicep tendon longitudina

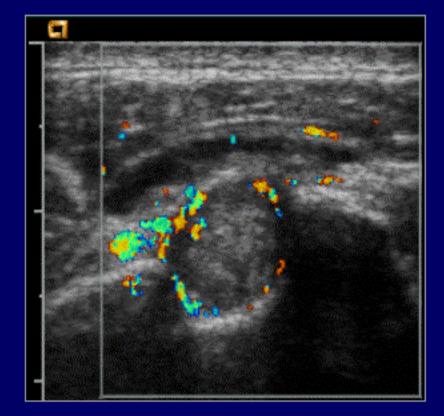




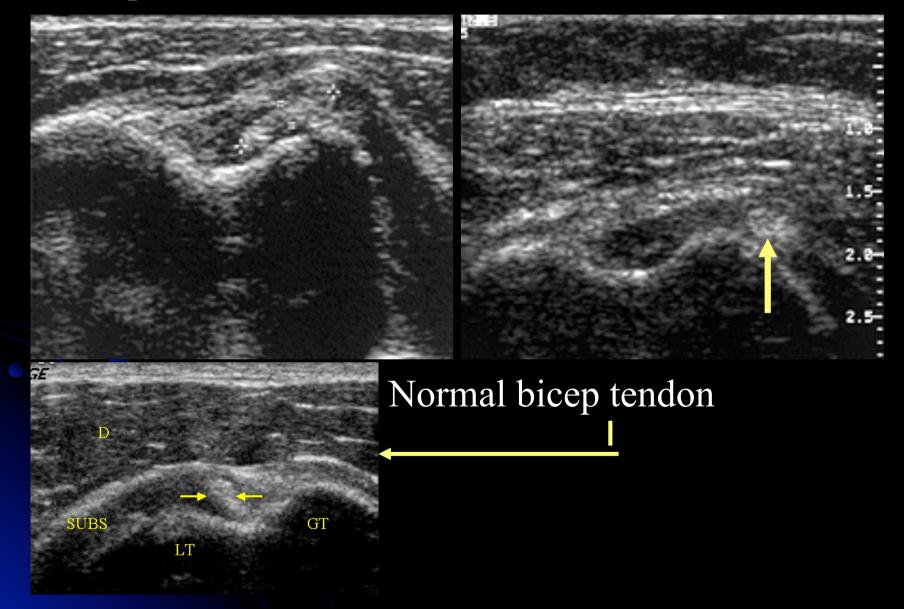




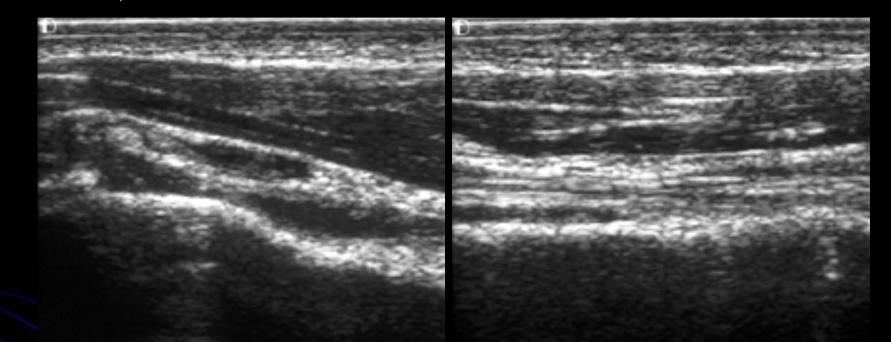




Biceps tendon subluxation and dislocation



A focal injury to the left biceps tendon

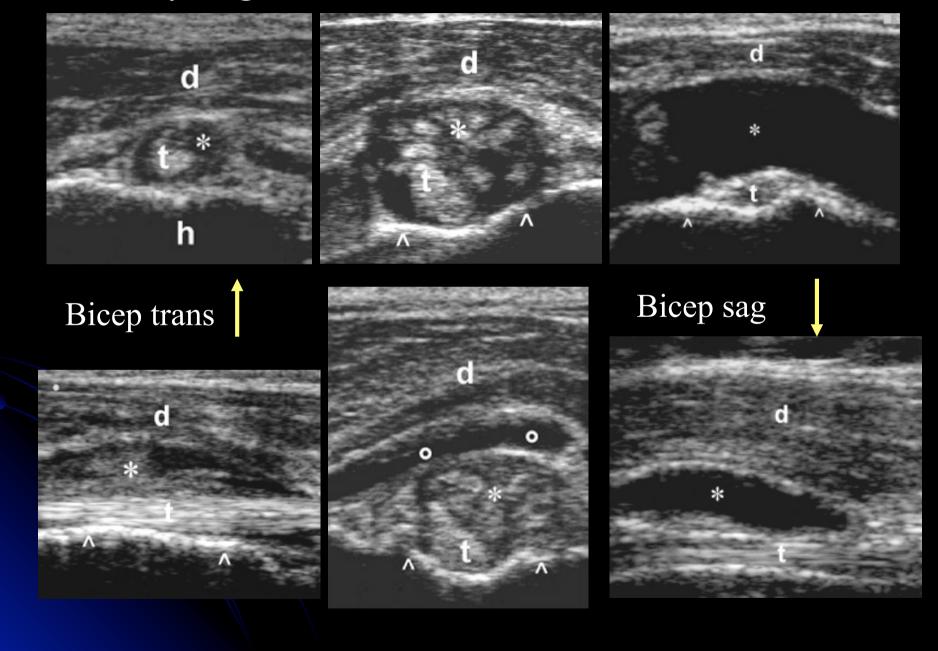


normal appearance to the right biceps tendon

Bicep bursitis



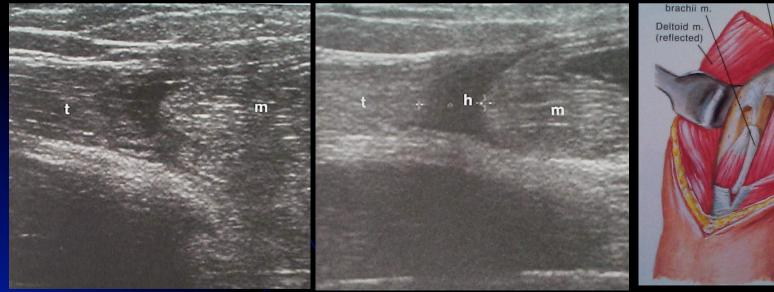
RA & Polymalgia Rheumatica



Biceps rupture – Popeye sign







Exposure shows te of long head of bio brachii muscle avu from glenoid margi

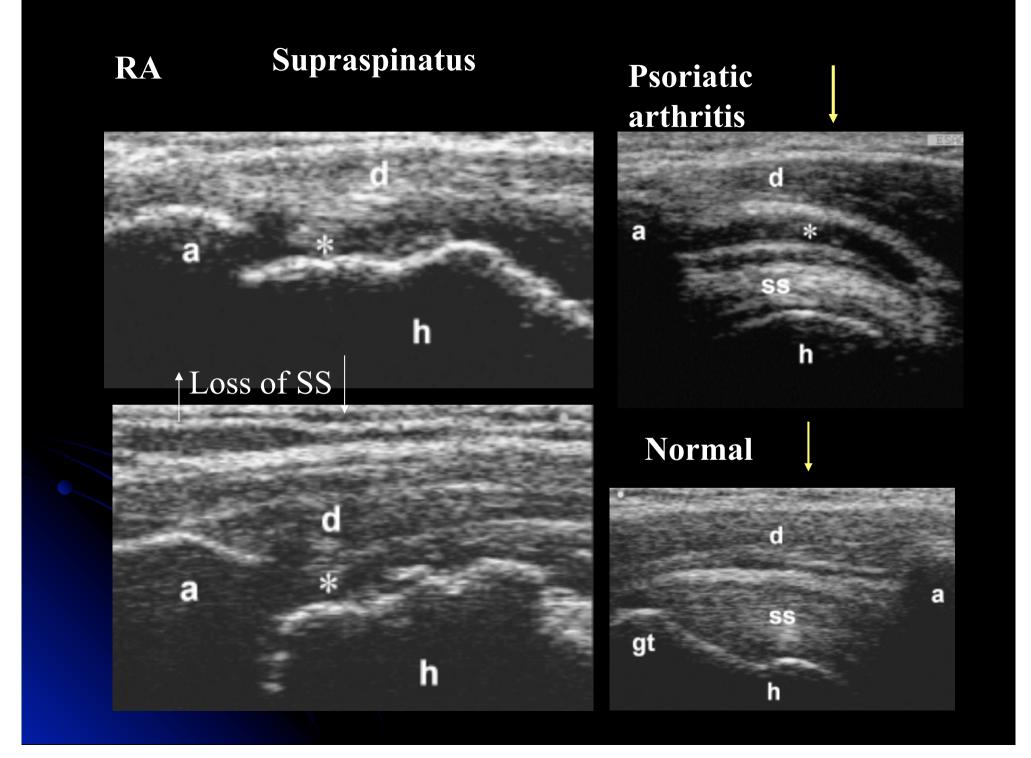
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Bicep myositis







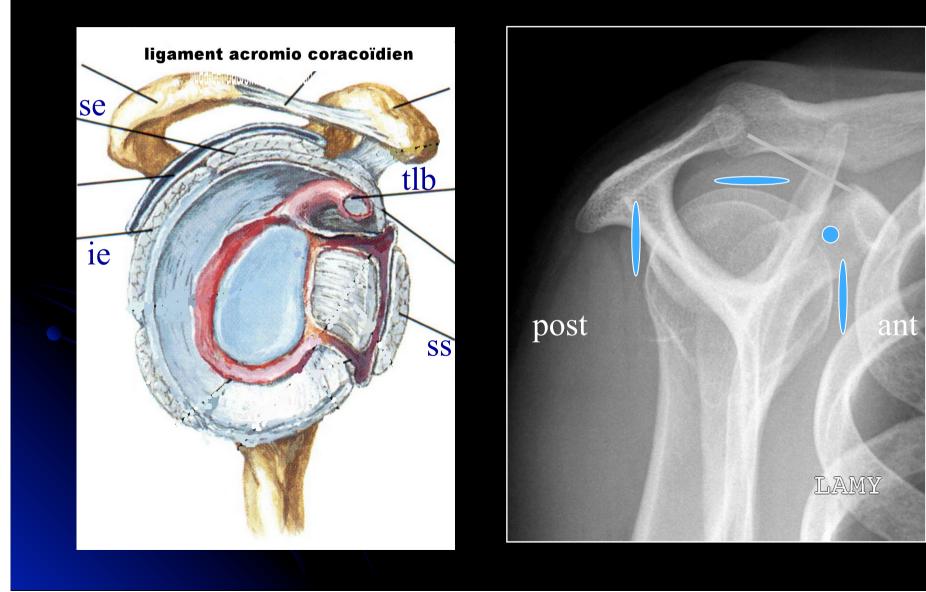








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Biceps muscle

Long head goes over the top of the humeral head

- Goes thru bicipital groove
- Passes thru rotator cuff under acromion
- Intra-articular
- Attaches to superior glenoid
- Depresses humeral head with aBduction
 Flexes elbow and supinates forearmBiceps muscle
- Long head goes over the top of the
- humeral head
- Goes thru bicipital groove
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- S Flexes elbow and supinates forearm

Acute rupture-sxs/signs

- May be Hx of impingement sxs
- Attrition
- Lifting—sudden pain, occasional "snap"
- Deformity with bunching of muscle distally
- Often ecchymosis

Tendon can sublux out of bicipital

groove

Acute rupture-Rx

Non-operative Rx usually successful

- 10% loss of strength
- Cosmetic deformity

Occasionally repair in young laborers

Always repair distal rupture

Biceps tendinitis-Sxs Anterior shoulder pain Difficult to distinguish from rotator cuff Sxs Pain with forward elevation

Biceps tendinitis-exam

Forward elevation against resistance with elbow extended and forearm supinated

Biceps tendinitis-Rx Rest NSAIDS Steroid injection Be careful not to inject tendon Rarely surgery

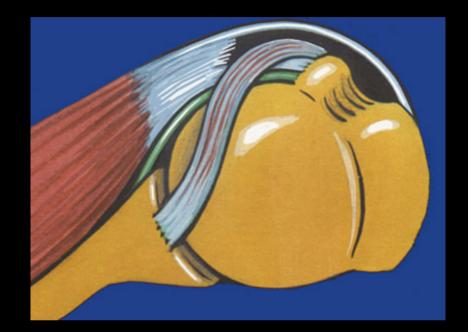
The Painful Shoulder

- common problem
- Incidence : 6.6~25 case/1000patients
- in fourth & sixth decades
- 8~13% of athletic injuries
- 3.9% of new emergency department visits

Degeneration limited to the CHL and RI can result in inflammation of the LHB and fraying of its superior aspect from mechanical friction of the tendon against the coracoacromial arch.

As the integrity of the CHL is lost, no intervening structures lie between the biceps tendon and the coracoacromial arch



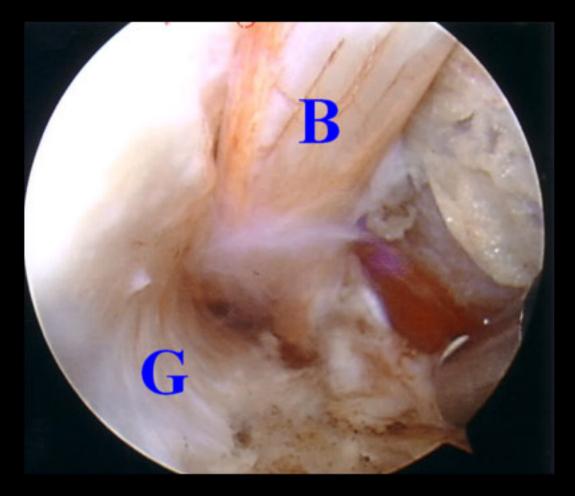


the tendon resting on the LT

Specific tests assessing biceps pathology:

Speed's test: with the forearm in a supinated position flexion is resisted and if pain at the bicipital groove is encountered the test is considered positive

Yergason's test: with the elbow flexed to 90° the forearm is actively supinated against resistance and if pain is encountered in the bicipital groove the test is considered positive



Arthroscopic illustration of inflamed tendon

Physical examination

localized point tenderness
 to palpation at the bicipital
 groove

 Groove: the anterior aspect of the shoulder 7 cm distal to the acromion with the arm internally rotated approximately 10°



Physical examination

•With ER the point tenderness specific travels laterally

Subacromial-type pain will usually stay in the same location

Pulley lesions

- articular-sided supraspinatus tear
- tear of the SGHL
- subtle subluxation of the LHB
- partial articular subscapularis tear.
- labral lesion
- anterosuperior instability

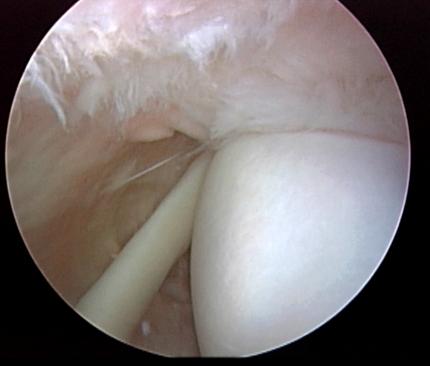
4 patterns of pulley lesions (Habermeyer)

Pattern 1 isolated lesion of the SGHL

Pattern 2 SGHL+partial articular-side SST

Pattern 3 SGHL+ deep surface tear of the SST

Pattern 4 SGHL+ partial articular-side SS and SC tendon tears



The history and the results of the physical examination are usually compatible with an impingement syndrome, although the pain may be more anterior and may radiate down the biceps itself.